GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
IMBALANCE IN HIMALAYAN REGION
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Bhayankar Apdaon Ka Samana Karnewale` appearing in Nav Bharat Times dated November 4, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are aware of this warning;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme in this regard as a precautionary measure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (e) Yes Sir. The news item mentions about dangers to traditional landuse, water resources and environment due to fast economic development in The Himalaya. The Government have taken various measures including due consideration to possible impact of development projects through Environmental Impact Assessment, ban on felling of trees above one thousand metres, upgradation of road construction techniques, promotion of afforestation. The Planning Commission have constituted a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the expert Committee on National Policy for integrated development in the Himalayas.The Steering Committee has constituted seven sector based Sub-Committees to look into various programmes in Himalayan Region and suggest corrective measures. The Steering committee has taken some important decisions in its meeting held on 3oth June, 2000, which include preparation of Perspective Plan for Border areas, specific plan on conservation and development of notified tribes, identification of economically viable projects for bamboo development and medicinal plants and strategy for dealing with the problems of forest fire.